



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO –
Complex Emergency**

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

May 2, 2002

Note: the last situation report was dated November 9, 2001.

BACKGROUND

Insecurity, the lack of infrastructure, and limited access to vulnerable populations continue to hinder humanitarian assistance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Joseph Kabila became the President of the DRC on January 26, 2001, following the death of his father, Laurent-Desire Kabila. President Joseph Kabila has publicly committed to fostering peace in the DRC and supporting the Lusaka Peace Accords signed in July-August 1999. A cease-fire has held in accordance with the Lusaka accords for the past year and UN Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) observers are verifying that troops have withdrawn the requisite 15 kilometers (km) from their forward positions. MONUC has started to focus on additional activities such as the disarmament, demobilization, and resettlement of combatants. However, in the eastern part of the country (North Katanga, Maniema, North and South Kivu Provinces) fighting has intensified involving, among others, ex-Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR)/Interahamwe and Mai Mai forces against the Congolese Democratic Assembly – Goma faction (RCD-G).

Some withdrawal of foreign forces from the DRC has taken place in the past year. Namibia, Uganda, and Angola have all withdrawn significant numbers of their troops. However, Rwanda and Zimbabwe have maintained significant forces in the DRC. The GDRC controls the western part of the country. Uganda has supported the opposition group Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) based in Gbadolite, Equateur Province, which controls most of Equateur and some of Orientale Province in the north. Rwanda backs the RCD-G, which is based in Goma, North Kivu Province, and controls much of North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, Orientale, and Katanga Provinces.

Insecurity in rural and urban areas has restricted access to agricultural land, decreasing harvest yields and contributing to the food security crisis. Lack of access to traditional markets has discouraged farming. Poverty is widespread and the health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and continuous looting by different parties in the conflict. People have low purchasing power due to the lack of markets and infrastructure. The World Bank estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita at U.S. \$78 in 1999. Widespread insecurity has resulted in limited private sector activities. President Joseph Kabila has attempted to address these economic concerns, however, the economy faces difficult circumstances. The January 17, 2002 eruption of the Mt. Nyiragongo volcano also strained already limited humanitarian resources.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Total: 2,275,111	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)
Refugees from the DRC	Total: 326,000	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Refugees in the DRC	Total: 365,025 186,675 from Angola 74,990 from Sudan 30,380 from Rwanda 26,545 from CAR 19,475 from Burundi 20,750 from Uganda 3,300 urban refugees living in Kinshasa 2,910 from the Republic of Congo	UNHCR

Total FY 2002 USAID Assistance to the DRC.....	\$27,980,441
Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC.....	\$47,470,811

CURRENT SITUATION

Ongoing Insecurity in the DRC

Accidental gunfire by a soldier with the Ugandan-backed MLC struck a United Nations Antonov 26 plane on February 13 as it landed in Kindu in eastern Congo. The shooting highlights the continuing risks that MONUC observers take while traveling to remote regions of the DRC.

Fighting in the northeastern region of the DRC has been ongoing over the past year, particularly in Orientale Province around Bunia, Beni, and Isiro between various Congolese factions, including the RCD-National (RCD-N) faction, the RCD-Liberation Movement (RCD-ML) faction, and the MLC, reportedly with some support by Mai-Mai militia. Inter-ethnic clashes in Ituri also occurred during the past six months.

On March 16, Rwandan-backed rebels captured the port town of Moliro, a Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) base in Katanga Province on the western shore of Lake Tanganyika. One week later the rebels withdrew from Moliro following pressure by the UN Security Council, and government forces have agreed not to retake the town.

In another incident highlighting the prevailing insecurity for humanitarian workers in the DRC, local residents harassed staff members of the NGO International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Goma during the last two weeks of March as IRC attempted to phase down their three-month volcano emergency USAID/OFDA-funded water and sanitation project. IRC worked with community leaders and UN security to successfully relocate their water bladders.

Prevailing insecurity, particularly in the east, requires humanitarian assistance workers to rely on air transport to access remote, vulnerable populations. In South Kivu province, for example, insecurity in early March 2002 caused the temporary suspension of the UN World Food Program (WFP) food distribution and the food security situation is expected to deteriorate. WFP reports that 435,000 IDPs and 123,200 refugees are located in South Kivu province. In North Kivu province, WFP has registered 525,000 displaced, of which 161,350 will receive food rations under a seed protection program partnered with the non-governmental organization (NGO) German Agro-Action. WFP reports that it plans to distribute over 60,900 metric tons (MT) of food commodities during the calendar year 2002, contingent on security, access, and commodity availability.

During the month of March, five international NGOs were forced to temporarily evacuate from areas of South Kivu and Katanga Provinces as a result of escalating conflict between Mai-Mai militias and RCD-Goma

troops, particularly in the Kitutu area of South Kivu Province.

At the end of March and into April, international sources reported clashes between the ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge, who are the oldest Tutsi community in the country, and Rwanda-backed RCD-Goma fighters in the Haut Plateau of South Kivu Province. According to independent news sources and the UN Wire, approximately one thousand people have been killed in eastern and northeastern DRC as a result of fighting between Rwandan troops and some of their rebelling allies, and between Ugandan proxy forces and Ugandan-backed MLC rebels. UN sources reported increased fighting during the week of April 15 in Shabunda and Zongwe, in South Kivu Province. UN observers have noted the arrival of new Rwandan-backed RCD battalions in the region.

A UN helicopter carrying four military observers was fired upon on April 18 as it returned from a visit to Moliro, in eastern DRC, but no one was hurt. Neither of the armed groups in the area has claimed responsibility for firing two grenades at the helicopter.

Striving for Peace

On January 14 in Blantyre, Malawi, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) hosted a summit that included the heads of state from Angola, Botswana, the DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. At the invitation of the President of Mozambique, the leaders of the two main rebel movements (the MLC and RCD-Goma) met briefly with President Kabila but no substantive issues were discussed. The three groups continued informal discussions in Geneva during February 4-9 to exchange views on the transitional leadership and elections, and the national army.

The UN Security Council in March called on RCD-Goma to withdraw from Pweto, in Katanga Province, and reminded all parties to the conflict that the town of Kisangani, the capital of Orientale Province, remains to be demilitarized. In early April, the two areas had not yet been vacated.

The presidents of the DRC, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa, along with ministers from Uganda and Angola met in Lusaka, Zambia on April 4 for a one-day summit that did not, as hoped, reach any further commitments towards fostering peace in the DRC. Rebel representatives were not in attendance.

The Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD) the process by which Congolese leaders are to decide on the new political institutions to reunite their country, commenced on February 25 in Sun City, South Africa, with an estimated 650 representatives of the current government,

the rebel groups, militias backed by the government, political parties, and civil society groups. In a positive step on April 11, the government and the rebel groups agreed to integrate their armed forces. On April 19, the GDRC and the MLC, under the leadership of Jean-Pierre Bemba, signed an agreement wherein Joseph Kabila would remain as President, Jean-Pierre Bemba would take office as Prime Minister, and the GDRC and the MLC would consolidate 70 percent of the country. The RCD-G, according to the Secretary General Azarias Ruberwa, does not support this agreement and continues to hold conflicting views on institutional changes in the government during the transitional period. The peace talks ended on April 19, but analysts agree that many issues remain to be resolved, including when elections will be held and how the RCD-G will act under the new power-sharing agreement. The dialogue is indicative of continuing efforts to establish lasting peace and security in the DRC, which would considerably alleviate humanitarian suffering and facilitate increased relief efforts.

On April 29, a convoy of “humanitarian barges” filled with 1,000 MT of relief supplies contributed by a number of international agencies (including USAID/OFDA) departed from Kinshasa to travel up the Congo River to Kisangani. UN OCHA organized the transport of the goods and MONUC will be escorting the barges from Kinshasa to Kisangani. The barges will return with food supplies for the capital, and MONUC and UN OCHA hope that the journey will mark the beginning of the reopening of the Congo River to commercial traffic.

MONUC Update

The UN Secretary-General’s Tenth Report on MONUC (dated February 15) reported that Phase II of MONUC’s mandate had been successfully concluded and the Mission’s support structure had been strengthened to facilitate Phase III activities. Phase III includes disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement, and reintegration activities for armed groups in the DRC. In coordination with these new activities, MONUC established four coordination centers at Basankusu, Boende, Ilebo, and Manono.

At the end of March, MONUC teams totaled 3,633 military and civilian personnel from 47 different countries. These teams are located throughout the DRC, including in more unstable parts of Eastern Congo.

The UN military observers estimate the total number of Rwandan rebel forces in the DRC to be between 10,000 and 12,000 fighters, which are comprised of the former Rwandan Armed Forces (also known as ex-FAR) and the Interahamwe militia. These forces represent two factions of the Rwandan Liberation Army (ALIR).

Eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo Volcano

On January 17, the Mt. Nyiragongo volcano erupted and lava flows into Goma prompted the temporary displacement of an estimated 300,000 people. Few

deaths were attributed to the eruption, but an estimated 80,000 residents were rendered homeless due to the destruction of 12,000 households as a result of the lava flows and seismic eruptions. The previous eruption occurred in 1977 when lava flows covered 20 square kilometers, killed 2,000 people, and destroyed 400 homes.

From the beginning of the emergency response until April 14, WFP had delivered approximately 6,000 MT of food assistance to 448,400 vulnerable people in the Goma region, some of who also received distributions of non-food relief items. According to UN OCHA, between February 11 and 15, international organizations delivered additional food assistance to 16,129 homeless families in Goma, which consisted of a 15-day ration of corn flour, pulses, oil, and corn-soy blend (CSB). These vulnerable families also received reinstallation kits. Regular food distributions to 5,177 malnourished children and their families, children living on the streets and hospital patients continued through the month of February. The United Nations appealed to the international community for \$21.6 million for the volcano relief effort. At the beginning of February, U.S. Government assistance to those affected by the volcanic eruption was more than \$4.3 million. As of late April, U.S. Government assistance for the volcano relief effort totaled more than \$6.6 million.

At the bottom of Lake Kivu, which borders the DRC and Rwanda, lies dissolved carbon dioxide and methane gas that could pose a threat to surrounding populations should the gases churn to the surface as a result of an underwater volcanic fissure, seismic activity, or extensive lava flows into the lake. Scientists continued to monitor this minor threat, and USAID/OFDA is investigating any health ramifications of carbon dioxide emissions into crop fields and populated areas.

Scientists are also closely monitoring volcanic activity from Mt. Nyamuragira, which lies further north from Goma than Mt. Nyiragongo. Greater magma activity has been reported in the area surrounding Mt. Nyamuragira, and UN OCHA and USAID/OFDA volcanologists continue to closely watch the area.

New HC/RC

Herbert McLeod from the UN Development Program in New York has been selected as the new Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for the DRC. The HC is also the United Nations’ Regional Coordinator (RC) for the DRC. The HC/RC’s leadership works to strengthen coordination in the DRC. The GDRC agreed to his appointment at the end of March and he arrived at the end of April.

Health and Food Security Situation

The health care system in the DRC has continued to erode since the escalation of the current conflict in August 1998 due to looting, lack of resources, and fighting which has prompted health care staff to flee.

Women and young girls increasingly have turned to prostitution in the absence of other viable income alternatives, resulting in alarming social consequences, including an increased incidence of HIV/AIDS. In August 2001, the UN World Health Organization reported that 70 percent of the population of the DRC was excluded from basic health services, and the health care network has faced difficulties in coping with malaria, cholera, and meningitis outbreaks.

Between September and December 2001, health authorities reported a meningitis outbreak in South Kivu province, and approximately 100 people died from cholera. December 2001 floods in Mbandaka affected 13,000 people whose crops and homes were destroyed.

According to international media sources, 400 people died from cholera in Katanga province between January and early March 2002, and 4,876 were diagnosed with cholera by mid-March. In 2001, 291 people died from cholera in the province. As a result of the ongoing conflict, control of Katanga is divided between the government in Kinshasa and Rwanda-backed rebels, hindering access by health and humanitarian workers to the province. By early April, the cholera epidemic had been contained.

In March, a nutritional survey conducted by the NGO Action Against Hunger (ACF) found a more than 20 percent global malnutrition rate among the accessible population in the Shabunda area of South Kivu Province. However, Mai-Mai and Interahamwe movements prevent health workers from progressing beyond a 30 km radius from Shabunda. Humanitarian workers are wary that greater malnutrition rates may be occurring in areas currently inaccessible to assessment and assistance.

Displaced Populations throughout the DRC

UN OCHA has reported more than 2.2 million displaced persons in the DRC as a result of both conflict and natural causes, but figures are difficult to verify due to limited access to many insecure areas, large areas of country to be visited, and ongoing population movements. While the number of IDPs countrywide has remained relatively constant since June 2001, UN OCHA reported an increased number of IDPs in South Kivu Province (by 210,000), Orientale Province (by 20,000), and Maniema Province (by 20,000) between September 2001 and February 2002. Escalating areas of conflict have caused these additional population movements.

United Nations Appeal

In November 2001, the United Nations appealed for more than \$194 million from the international community for humanitarian assistance for the DRC. The 2001 UN Consolidated Appeal was for \$123 million, and was funded at 64 percent.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On November 5, 2001, U.S. Ambassador Aubrey Hooks re-declared a disaster for the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC as a result of the continued fighting since August 1998.

To date in FY 2002, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is providing more than \$10 million in emergency assistance to the DRC and is reviewing options for additional assistance focused primarily on health services and improving food security. USAID/OFDA also supports emergency market infrastructure rehabilitation and agricultural programs for war-affected, vulnerable, and internally displaced persons. Programs that immediately provide assistance as well as projects that build local capacity are integrated to promote livelihoods. An important component of USAID/OFDA assistance is the funding of AirServ International to operate three humanitarian aircraft in areas outside of government control. USAID/OFDA also contributed more than \$3.2 million in relief assistance for victims of the January volcano eruption. USAID/OFDA also supports two Emergency Disaster Response Coordinators (EDRCs) in the DRC to monitor the humanitarian situation throughout the country and make programmatic recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington.

USAID's Office of Food For Peace (FFP) will provide a total of 18,060 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance to WFP in FY 2002 in order to assist food insecure populations throughout the DRC. The estimated cost of this pledge is \$13.6 million.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) has developed a national, multi-faceted program to support the transition to peace in the DRC. The program will establish a foundation for the advancement to democracy and assist in the country's reunification by fostering exchanges across the country. USAID/OTI will promote access to balanced information, encourage public participation in the peace process, and build the capacity of civil society through the provision of resources to a broad range of organizations. The total cost of the transition program is \$4 million.

From January 15-31, 2002 an intra-agency USAID team traveled throughout the DRC to assess ways to expand USAID engagement in the country should peace break out. The team's recommendations, which were approved, included integrating a livelihoods approach that includes food aid, agriculture programs, communications, micro-financing, and potentially other economic growth activities into USAID's ongoing activities, especially ongoing health activities. The team also endorsed efforts to improve communication between key communities throughout the DRC to decrease isolation and increase local engagement and participation in the peace process.

In FY 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Assistance Service (USDA/FAS) has provided 18,400 MT of 416(b) food commodities to the DRC to

assist in emergency food needs. The more than \$15 million worth of food commodities includes 16,900 MT of cornmeal and 1,500 MT of vegetable oil.

The State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) provided \$4.44 million to UNHCR to assist refugees located in the DRC. PRM has also provided \$9.27 million to UNHCR to assist Congolese and other refugees from the region who are located in neighboring countries to the DRC. Specifically for Congolese refugees located in Rwandan refugee camps, PRM provided \$419,724 to the American Refugee Committee (ARC).

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2002				
USAID				\$27,980,441¹
USAID/OFDA				\$10,380,441²
	Action Against Hunger (AICF)	Integrated Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Water/Sanitation	South Kivu and Katanga Provinces	\$2,244,561
	Action Against Hunger (AICF)	Health	Malemba Nkulu, Katanga Province	\$477,647
	AirServ International	Air transportation of humanitarian goods and personnel	Country-wide	\$1,209,870
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Health	Kabinda	\$201,502
	Food for the Hungry International (FHI)	Food security	South Kivu, northern Katanga Provinces	\$744,577
	International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health and nutrition assistance	Bunyakiri	\$886,362
	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health	Katana, Bunyakiri, South Kivu Province	\$1,866,175
	MERLIN	Health	Maniema Province	\$878,036
	MERLIN	Health	Kasai Orientale Province	\$163,061
	Allotment for USAID Mission	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	\$208,650
	UNICEF	Health	Country-wide	\$1,500,000
USAID/FFP				\$13,600,000
	WFP	18,060 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance (9,010 MT maize, 5,910 MT beans, 2,140 MT corn-soy blend, and 1,000 MT vegetable oil)	Country-wide	\$13,600,000
USAID/OTI				\$4,000,000
		Programs in support of peace initiatives and transition to democracy	Country-wide	\$4,000,000
USDA				\$15,050,370
	WFP	16,900 MT of cornmeal and 1,500 MT of vegetable oil in 416 (b) food commodities		\$15,050,370
STATE/PRM				\$4,440,000
	UNHCR	Assistance for refugees located in the DRC	Countrywide	\$4,440,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC in FY 2002				\$47,470,811



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*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.htm

¹ The USAID total does not reflect USAID's Africa Bureau planned budget of \$21.2 million in development assistance for the DRC in FY 2002.

² The USAID/OFDA total does not reflect USAID/OFDA's contribution of \$3,259,349 towards the Mt. Nyirongongo volcano eruption relief effort.

NGO/IO ACTIVITIES

- ✕ Airlift
- 🔑 Coordination
- 🌊 Flood Mitigation
- ✂️ Food Security
- ⛑️ Health
- 🏠 Livelihoods
- 🍲 Nutrition
- 🌾 Seeds/Tools
- 🏠 Shelter
- ☂️ Umbrella Grant
- 🚰 Water/Sanitation

PROVINCE
REGION
City
PROGRAM

